

We Claim:

1. A catheter assembly comprising
a catheter tube,
an operative element carried at one end of the
5 catheter tube, the operative element including at least
two fluid-conveying ports,
a manifold body carried within the catheter
tube, the manifold body including a single main fluid
junction coupled to a fluid source or a fluid destination
10 external to the catheter tube, multiple branch fluid
junctions each individually coupled to one of the fluid-
conveying ports on the operative element, and a fluid
circuit formed within the manifold body to channel fluid
between the single main fluid junction and the multiple
15 branch fluid junctions.
2. An assembly according to claim 1
wherein the operative element carries at least
one electrode.
3. An assembly according to claim 1
20 wherein the fluid-conveying ports convey
irrigation fluid from an external source for contact with
a tissue region through the manifold.
4. An assembly according to claim 1
wherein the fluid-conveying ports convey fluid
25 from a tissue region to an external designation through
the manifold.
5. An assembly according to claim 1
wherein the manifold comprises a single molded
body sized for placement within the catheter tube.
- 30 6. A method of handling fluid flow to or
from an operative element carried by a catheter tube
comprising the steps of
providing a manifold body sized to fit within
the catheter tube, the manifold body including a single
35 main fluid junction, multiple branch fluid junctions, and

a fluid circuit formed within the manifold body to channel fluid flow between the single main fluid junction and the multiple branch fluid junctions,

5 coupling the single main fluid junction to a fluid source or a fluid destination external to the catheter tube,

coupling each of the multiple branch fluid junctions individually to a fluid-conveying port on the operative element, and

10 mounting the manifold within the catheter tube.